

ENTRE NOS

ENTRE NOSOTROS

AMONG US

Newsletter of the Committee on International Relations

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
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¿QUE PASA?

Continuing with its program of reporting the work of some of the government offices in inter-American cultural relations, AMONG US brings a brief account of the Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress.

Hispanic activities are going on in many divisions of the Library, those of the Hispanic Foundation being the most apparent and best known. At the Government Printing Office awaiting publication is a manuscript entitled *Hispanic Activities of the Library of Congress*, which, when available, will give information in some detail concerning the Library Hispanic collections of printed books, manuscripts, maps, documents, legal literature, and music, as well as a report of the work of the Hispanic Foundation. Special Hispanic collections are to be found in the Semetic Division and the Division of Orientalia.

The Hispanic Foundation has as its principal function the creation of an unsurpassed collection of material pertaining to Spain, Portugal, and Latin America. In this task, the advice of specialists within the Library and the learned societies, libraries, and universities thruout this country and the Hispanic lands is sought.

Since the inauguration of the Hispanic Foundation in 1939, members of its staff have been able to visit almost all of the Hispanic countries and there establish contacts with a wide variety of intellectual organizations and individual writers. On their trips they have acquired mate-

President Flora of the National Education Association has reappointed the entire Core Committee of the Association's Committee on International Relations to serve for the school year 1942-43. At the time AMONG US went to press arrangements were being made for a meeting of the Core Committee in Washington, D. C., December 3, at which time suggestions regarding the Committee's work would be discussed and a program of activity for the current year would be agreed upon.

(Continued on page 2)

rial for the Library of Congress by purchase, gift, and exchange.

In spite of its constant purchases of books and periodicals from Latin America, Spain, and Portugal, the Library cannot hope to have a complete record of all contemporary publications without the active assistance of the authors themselves. Many important articles and monographs are submerged in magazines and newspapers or are published in widely dispersed centers. The Foundation therefore has adopted the policy of inviting living writers to send copies of their works to the Library of Congress where they become integral parts of its collections. With the friendly aid of all authors who concern themselves with Hispanic studies it is expected that this collection of contributions will provide a unique and increasingly valuable corpus of material. Already the response has been generous and the Foundation is receiving many important publications which otherwise might not have been available. Relations are also being established with societies and institutions of research in Latin America, Spain, and Portugal.

It must be emphasized that "Hispanic" culture to the Hispanic Foundation means Portuguese as well as Spanish, Brazilian as well as Spanish American culture. The Foundation seeks to place equal emphasis on the Spanish speaking and Portuguese speaking worlds. The Portuguese collections of the Library are already well developed. In 1927 a notable group of Portuguese books, numbering over 1500 volumes, was purchased from a private collector. The collection is particularly rich in the Portuguese chronicles of the Kings and the Religious Orders. There is a complete set of pamphlets relating to the expulsion of the Jesuits under Marques de Pombal. There is also important and rare material on Portuguese law, the administration of towns and provinces, the constitution, diplomatic relations, and art and archaeology.

Mention should be made of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, which is edited at the Hispanic Foundation. It is an annual publication, sponsored by the Committee on Latin American Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies, which lists with critical and informative notes the outstanding books and articles relating to Latin America which have appeared thruout the world in the course of each year. The *Handbook*, of which the sixth yearly number was published in 1941, enjoys the active collaboration of outstanding specialists who prepare sections on various aspects of Latin American culture. Seven members of the Library staff are contributing editors.

Thru special grants made to it, the Hispanic Foundation has been able to enlarge its activities and to make a start towards realizing its principal aims. The generous assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation has made it possible to have specialists survey the Library's holdings in certain Hispanic fields and to advise as to future purpose. A beginning has been made in the crea-

tion of an extensive Hispanic catalog which, it is hoped, eventually will analyze the whole Hispanic collection of the Library of Congress. The value of this catalog to scholars who come to visit the Library can scarcely be overestimated. Other projects made possible by the Rockefeller Foundation grant have been the publication of a preliminary edition of a survey of Latin American periodicals currently received in the Library of Congress, and an investigation of work in progress in the field of Latin American studies in this country.

Preliminary work on a second major aim of the Hispanic Foundation - the setting up of a photographic archive of Hispanic culture - has been made possible by a grant received thru the Interdepartmental Committee on Cooperation with the American Republics. The keeper of this archive has visited Mexico and Central America and his assistant has visited the countries of South America to gather information on art, museums, art instruction, research, private collections, and photographers. This information will be published in a guide to the material of the fine arts of Latin America. It is hoped that the Foundation will be able to expand the photographic archive to include all such aspects of Hispanic culture as folk art, furniture, costumes, religious customs, and diversified crafts. Principally, however, it will comprehend the fine arts in Spain, Portugal, and Latin America. Special importance will be placed on the gathering of photographs from the two latter regions, for the reason that little attention has as yet been paid to them by art historians. The archive of Hispanic photos will serve as a basic source of reference in a field in which at present such material is notably wanting, altho it is among the richest of artistic provinces. The archive will include material of all periods, from the earliest to the present day. In the case of Latin America, special attention will be paid to the artistic connections with the mother countries and an effort will be made to determine the indigenous elements in architecture, sculpture, and painting.

As its activities develop and its collections increase, the Foundation hopes to attract specialists in the many fields of Hispanic research and thereby gain in stature as an active center for the study of every branch of the culture of Spain, Portugal, and Latin America.

The Foundation welcomes the visits and queries of mature scholars bent on serious investigation, and its resources are always at their disposal.

The University of Guayaquil (Ecuador) celebrated its 75th anniversary on December 1.

In November the University of Chile celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding.

PORTUGUESE STUDY IN THE U. S.

There has come about in the United States a truly remarkable turning to the classroom, to the private tutor, to the radio, and to the phonograph record for instruction in the history as well as the language of the Brazilian. The speed of the study cannot yet be accurately measured in figures, for it extends far beyond the confines of the classroom, whether in grade school, private school, high school, or college. Such statistics as have become available, however, have clearly revealed the interest and the trend.

A survey of the status of Portuguese studies in colleges and universities of the United States was recently begun by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. Early reports indicated the remarkable spread of instruction in the language. Returns from 36 colleges and universities for the school year 1941-42, showing comparisons with figures for the previous year, were as follows:

Number of courses offered, 1940-41	18
Number of courses offered, 1941-42	51
Increase	240%
Number of students enrolled, 1940-41	205
Number of students enrolled, 1941-42	558
Increase	172%
Number of faculty members offering courses, 1940-41	17
Number of faculty members offering courses, 1941-42	34
Increase	100%
Number of students preparing to teach, 1940-41	7
Number of students preparing to teach, 1941-42	25
Increase	257%

Enrolments in institutions, with classes of 20 students or more, were reported as follows: Columbia University - 68; University of California, Berkeley - 48; University of Wisconsin - 43; University of Texas - 34; University of Pennsylvania - 30; Rutgers University - 25; Brown University - 20. Twenty-one universities reported teaching Portuguese for the first time during the past school year.

Four universities - Columbia, Harvard, Pennsylvania, and California (Berkeley) - are offering facilities for work leading to the Ph.D. with Portuguese and Brazilian Literatures as subject of a dissertation.

Reports from three leading Washington, D. C., universities show that the number of students enrolled for courses in Portuguese is more than double that of a year ago. George Washington University offers three courses with 46 students enrolled. Georgetown University, thru its Foreign Service School, teaches Portuguese to 25 students.

At the Catholic University of America, in the capital, is the famous Lima Library, containing the most complete collection of Portuguese literature, manuscripts, and memorabilia in the United States. The library, the gift of Dr. Oliveria Lima, distinguished Brazilian scholar, is a shrine for students, particularly those whose interest embraces the culture of Brazil.

Many of those studying Portuguese in schools and colleges are aided in their work by official agencies of the government and by civic and cultural groups, such as the American Council of Learned Societies, which has established its "Summer Institute for Intensive Training in Portuguese" on the campus of the University of Vermont.

The tremendous growth of the study of Spanish in the United States is regarded as a factor in stimulating interest in Portuguese, particularly as students in Spanish become aware that half of South America speaks Portuguese. Portuguese is not being taught as widely as Spanish in the public schools, but a survey of the rapid spread of the latter encourages prediction that study of Portuguese, also at an accelerating rate, will take much the same course.

Altho the commercial value of a mastery of the Portuguese language is a prevailing incentive with those studying it, there has been in evidence in both public and private schools a strong interest that is purely cultural. To the other discoveries of Brazil by the people of the United States must be added an awakening to the fact that a study of the Portuguese language opens a rich field of literature. "Os Lusíadas," for example, the epic poem by Lui Camoens, which has been declared comparable to Homer's "Iliad," will emerge as a discovery to most U. S. students.

In the September 1942 issue of LAS AMERICAS, a newspaper in Spanish for students in the United States, a suggestion was made for establishing correspondence with Brazilians. All persons interested in writing to a correspondent in Brazil are urged to communicate with Dr. Luiz Fraga, Director of the Instituto Guanabara de Educaçao, Rua Prudente de Moraes, 27 Ipanema, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

According to this announcement several hundred requests for Brazilian correspondents have been received and exchanges promptly arranged for by the Instituto Guanabara.

AMONG US has received notice that the publication of names and addresses of Latin Americans who are interested in corresponding with educators in the United States has borne some fruit. Will people who have established a correspondence with some of these Latin Americans continue to let the NEA know?

LINGUISTIC BARRIERS

From an article entitled "The Study of Modern Languages and the Present Crisis" by John Wolf, which appears in the October 1942 *Modern Language Journal*. (p. 413-17) are taken these excerpts:

"One of the principal doors to understanding other peoples is a knowledge of their languages. We need an increasingly large army of leaders - clergymen, politicians, teachers, businessmen - who can read, write and speak foreign languages, not only to handle the ever-growing physical contacts with the world, but also, and this is even more important, to explain that world to their fellow-citizens. Our press, our pulpits, our lecture-platforms, and our public assemblies must be manned by people who understand the problems of the world through first-hand experience, and that experience is only possible when men can breach the linguistic barriers that separate the peoples of the earth....

"It is of equal importance that large numbers of the people who are not leaders - the plain citizens who must act intelligently if our democracy is to survive - should have standards of judgment with which to assess the words of their leaders.... The writer is ready to argue that any young man or woman that has achieved even a small proficiency in a foreign language has made a contact with another people

and another civilization that should strengthen his judgment and assist him in his task as a citizen. One does not have to be able to speak German, French, or Spanish to make that contact; even a superficial knowledge of the language, if it is accompanied by some understanding of the people, will break the isolation and diminish the strangeness. More, of course, can be done by an effective, intelligent teacher than by a mere martinet of the irregular verbs, but, given even a poor teacher and a poor student, the effort is not completely wasted, for nothing like contact with a foreign language will give one an intimate feeling for the differences and the similarities of the great world cultures, and that is the first step in the road to understanding.

"It is imperative then, if our democracy is to shape our destinies as a world power, that the teaching of language should be broadened, extended, and deepened. We probably should add to the conventional (and essential) German, French, and Spanish, the study of Chinese, Japanese, Russian, and perhaps several of the Indian and Malayan tongues. And in teaching these languages we should constantly keep in mind that [future leaders and citizens are acquiring] standards of judgment and active tools to help govern our great democracy in the world that we are facing today."

LIBRARY SCHOOL IN BOGOTÁ

The first library school for South Americans teaching United States methods, and probably the first library school to be held on that continent, has completed its work in Bogotá's beautiful National Library. It has been voted a notable success by its North American faculty and its hundred Colombian students, eighty of whom received graduation certificates at exercises in which Ambassador Arthur Bliss Lane took a leading part.

The suggestion that the school be held came from Daniel Samper Ortega, one of Colombia's most distinguished educators and literary men, under whose administration as director the National Library was completed. Carl Milam of the American Library Association cooperated with the plan, the Rockefeller Foundation gave financial support, and the Division of Cultural Relations of the Department of State furnished two faculty members.

Dr. Rudolph H. Gjelsness of the University of Michigan directed the courses, with the active cooperation of Señor Samper and of Dr. Enrique Uribe White, present director of the National Library.

The original plan was to have the school reach the twelve Caribbean countries, but transportation difficulties prevented the attendance of librarians from farther away than Venezuela, which was represented by two students. The ages of the attendants ran from twenty to sixty, with the majority under forty. Classes were all held in the



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National Library, and courses were given in cataloging and classification, public service, book selection, and introduction to library science. All classes were held in Spanish.

Dorothy Reeder, who was lent to the National Library by the Library of Congress, has trained a number of employees of the library in cataloging and has also given them informal but highly successful English lessons. Her most conspicuous contribution to the work of the library is the first free circulating library in Bogotá or Colombia. Since nothing of the kind had ever been tried, there was general skepticism as to the results, but three months of operation have wiped out the last remaining doubt. The circulating library has a total of 2700 volumes; has 1627 subscribers; and has to date circulated 6719 books. There is need for more books, especially American books of fiction and nonfiction, since Bogotá is filled with people eager to know more English and keenly interested in the United States.

BIBLIOTECA AMERICANA

An American Library has been officially opened in Managua, Nicaragua, similar in organization and purpose to the Benjamin Franklin Library in Mexico City. The work has been accomplished thru the cooperation of the Nicaraguan government, the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, and the Division of Cultural Relations of the State Department. The chief object of establishing these libraries is that the people of other countries may know what is written and thought in the United States as expressed in books. Another object is to facilitate the study of our history for students who intend to come to the United States.

GUIDANCE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDENTS

A new Counsel and Guidance Center has been established by the Institute of International Education to make available to any Latin American student in the United States vocational or academic advice, contacts, or opportunities.

According to the announcement by the Institute, students who need employment are invited to get in touch with the Center, which "will be glad to help them locate openings in their fields of special interest, and to advise them about government regulations which they must follow in order to work in this country. Latin American students who encounter various academic problems, such as finding a college or university offering courses which would best fit their needs, or the procedure to follow in applying for scholarships in North American institutions of higher learning, may also turn to the Guidance Center for assistance in solving such problems."

During the past academic year there were about 2300 students from the other American repub-

lics in North American institutions of higher learning. Because of wartime transportation difficulties, many of these students have had to remain in the United States long after the completion of their academic work, when they would normally expect to return home. Many students also find themselves without sufficient funds because of the adverse rate of foreign exchange, and it is necessary for them to obtain employment to help support themselves, or continue their education during the present emergency.

The new Counsel and Guidance Center, according to the announcement, is "in a position to help students with intricate transportation arrangements for returning to their homes, although it is no longer possible to obtain priorities for student travel. In some exceptionally meritorious cases funds may be obtained for students who must return to Latin America, but who do not have sufficient resources of their own. To United States students going to Latin America, the Center offers its services in advising about travel arrangements and in providing helpful contacts.

"The Guidance Center expects to assist many Latin American students who need some sort of employment or desire special hospitality in the United States during the Christmas, spring and summer vacation periods. Placements will include positions as counselors in summer camps, as instructors at summer schools and foreign-language institutes, or as part-time workers in numerous types of specialized fields.

"All North Americans who wish to extend vocational opportunities or free hospitality to Latin American students are invited to communicate with the Counsel and Guidance Center at the Institute of International Education. Introductions, and in some instances speaking engagements, are arranged to enable an individual or a group to become acquainted with Latin American students. An increasing volume of people in this country, earnestly interested in inter-American affairs, have discovered that through friendships with Latin American students they can gain a deeper understanding of the other American republics, even at a time when extensive travel between the Americas has become impossible.

"The Guidance Center hopes to receive a great deal of assistance from experienced foreign-student advisers in colleges and universities throughout the United States. This decentralization will enable students to profit from personal contacts with experts in their own vicinity whenever intimate and immediate discussion is required for their problems. A master list of all foreign-student advisers has been compiled and is ready for active use.

"Requests for further information should be directed to A. Randle Elliott, Chief, or Miss Catherine Sands, Secretary, Counsel and Guidance Center, Institute of International Education, 2 West 45th Street, New York City."

TEACHING THRU RADIO AND MOTION PICTURE

"Audio-Visual Aids to Cultural Understanding" was the subject of a session held at the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, October 11, 1942, at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. One of the speakers was John M. Begg, Assistant Chief of the Division of Cultural Relations, and from his address are taken the following paragraphs:

"Radio and motion pictures are a means, not an end. Before they can be used effectively it is necessary constantly to study the psychology of the peoples whose understanding of the United States we are trying to better. There was a time when the other American republics turned to Europe for their intellectual inspiration and for economic ties, but a weariness of Old World confusion has rapidly developed in the past few years. Now there exists a determination to create a new world, a desire to increase productivity, to enlarge communication systems, to better conditions of health and to develop the many other phases of life which serve to create a higher standard of living.

"This psychology and these desires must be given careful consideration when developing the content of our radio and motion picture programs. It forces us to clarify and present in clear form the fundamental issues which are so complicated in this day and age in which we live.

"Then, when the content of the program has been decided upon, care must be taken as to how it should be presented to various countries. For instance, in presenting a motion picture which will aid in industrial development, the film should be keyed to the industrial conditions already existing in the country or countries where the film is shown. Another problem which arises in preparing radio programs and motion pictures is the question of language. Spanish, as it is spoken in Argentina, is somewhat different from the Spanish of Colombia and similarly the accent in Colombia is different from that in Mexico. As a general rule this difficulty can be overcome in motion pictures and in short-wave broadcasts by what might be termed an inter-American type of Spanish which avoids the accent of any particular locality....

"The methods of presenting both radio and motion picture programs are various. Radio programs are produced in the United States by the private broadcasting companies and by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs for short-wave transmission. Sometimes these programs are sent point-to-point to various cities in the other Americas where they are rebroadcast locally. A more recent development in the use of radio for cultural understanding has been the preparation of recorded programs in Spanish and Portuguese which are sent to local stations for their use. These recorded programs cover a wide variety of subjects, in-

cluding series on such topics as folk music in the United States, the poems of Walt Whitman and industries in war time in the United States. A third method is to prepare scripts which are then translated locally and produced with local talent. This method is considered particularly useful as it gives an opportunity to persons in other countries to interpret the United States to their own fellow citizens.

"Motion pictures, whenever it is possible, are distributed theatrically through the co-operation of United States motion picture distributing companies. However, one of the most important distribution developments, particularly as regards non-theatrical sixteen millimeter educational films has been the organization of the exhibition of motion pictures through our embassies, legations and consular offices, in cooperation with local groups of United States citizens known as coordinating committees. Showings in this non-theatrical field have increased tremendously during the past six months. This type of film is now reaching approximately two hundred thousand persons per month. It is expected that this number will soon be doubled and trebled, as more projection machines are made available and more films are produced. Films already distributed include subjects on sports, home life, industry, surgery, engineering, national parks, children, agriculture, health and science....

"That these films have been effective has been evidenced by the constantly increasing requests from every country for more films. In Ecuador, when a program of educational and cultural films was being presented recently at the National Fair, the motion picture exhibit was so popular that at the end of the first week as many as ten policemen were needed to control the waiting crowds and it was evident that a theater three times the size could have been filled had one been available. In Monterrey, Mexico, after a showing to a group of steel mill workers one of them stated, 'I have never been to the United States and my ideas of the country were completely vague, but after seeing these pictures I feel proud and confident in knowing that we are working together.'

"The effectiveness of the radio programs naturally cannot be judged as easily, because the radio fan-mail habit is not as highly developed in the other American republics as it is in this country. Nevertheless the popularity of cultural programs...is evidenced by widespread favorable comment among individuals and also by editorial comment in various newspapers and magazines."

Do you have a teaching manual for the *School of the Air of the Americas, 1942-43*? You can obtain it thru your local CBS broadcasting station.

MORE FILMS AVAILABLE

The Motion Picture Division of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs has announced that prints of several new films have been deposited in more than 100 regional university extension groups, museums, and so-called commercial libraries.

It is hoped that all users of nontheatrical films, especially the school systems, will plan to use subjects about Latin America on the basis of one new subject a week thruout the year. By so arranging programs groups can be served more efficiently by the Motion Picture Division of the CIAA.

For school systems cooperating with parent-teacher associations, service clubs, civic groups, and civilian defense organizations a "monthly loan" policy has been arranged. The details of this plan will be supplied upon application to the Office.

The division is now planning and has in preparation special production units for Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and several of the other American republics. Dates of release are to be announced later.

The following are the films recently prepared for distribution:

Sky Dancers of Papantla (1 reel color). This film shows Mexico's unique Corpus Christi festival, which culminates in the headlong descent of dancers from a pole.

Argentine Soil (2 reels black and white). Made in Argentina by Argentinians, this film shows many aspects of the colorful country.

A Line from Yucatan (1 reel color). Planters on Mexico's famed peninsula meet the opportunity to provide sisal hemp when war closes sources in the Pacific.

Sundays in the Valley of Mexico (1 reel color). Shows things to do and see on Sundays near Mexico City - from viewing pyramids to modern dancing.

Mexico Builds a Democracy (2 reels color). Work of the Mexican government in bringing education to its Tarascan people.

The Day Is New (1 reel black and white). A day in the life of the Mexican people, picturing their varied activities from sunrise to bedtime.

Brazil Gets the News (1 reel black and white). How a great modern newspaper of Brazil gathers news and goes to press.

Guatemala Sketch Book (4 reels color). A series of three films that may be used together or separately.

South American Medley (4 reels color). A series of four one-reel films which may be used together or separately: *Brazil*, *Buenos Aires* and *Montevideo*, *Colombia*, and *Venezuela*.

Groups may obtain these films by applying to their nearest film library, the university extension libraries in the various states, the Motion Picture Bureau of the YMCA or any other nonprofit or commercial film library thru which they regularly obtain 16mm. sound films. Or they may write directly to the Motion Picture Division, Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City. The only cost is that of a service fee to cover booking and handling, which should not exceed 50 cents.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The State Department has announced the 1942-43 membership of several committees, two of which may be of special interest to readers of *AMONG US*.

One is the Advisory Committee on Exchange Fellowships and Professorships. The purpose of this group is to advise on the selection of graduate students and professors for the panels presented to the other participating governments and to advise on the selection of graduate students and professors from the panels presented to this country by other governments. The members of the committee are Stephen P. Duggan, Albert L. Barrows, Martin McGuire, Waldo G. Leland, W. Rex Crawford, and Donald Young.

Another committee, the Advisory Committee on Foreign Students, whose function is to advise the State Department on problems involving the adjustment of students from abroad to their new environment and also to counsel on plans for more effective guidance and hospitality, has the following membership: Edgar J. Fisher, Thomas E. Jones, Gladys Bryson, Ben M. Cherrington, Charles W. Hackett, Allan Blaisdell, Father George B. Ford, and J. Raleigh Nelson.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

A conference in Denver, Colorado, in October successfully carried out a program attempting to assist major functional groups to develop practical programs of education in inter-American relations. The conference was the Colorado State Planning Conference on Inter-American Affairs. It was sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Council on Inter-American Affairs, the Western Policy Committee, and the Colorado State Defense Council's Committee on Public Information and Education.

In Chile there is a vocational school where some ninety students get practical training in the art of fishing. The school is at Talcahuano, southern Chile.

SUMMER PROGRAM IN SALTILLO

The Texas State College for Women reports another successful summer school carried out in the colonial city of Saltillo in Mexico. The report sent to AMONG US is too long for complete reproduction but parts of it follow:

"From fifty to one hundred Mexicans came every Wednesday evening to see the faculty and students of the Summer School at the weekly *Tertulia* given at the Casa Colonial. Around certain tables in the charming patio of the Hotel sat groups of Mexicans who were practicing their English with the Texas girls. Across the patio were other groups of Mexicans who were helping their English-speaking neighbors to master the language spoken 'south of the border.' Songs in English and Spanish were sung....Miss Maurine Faulkner, Dean of Women, acted as chaperone for all social activities.

"But not all was play and entertainment. To better understand the entire program look at one day's work at Saltillo. In the school building, generously donated to the Summer School by the Federal Government, Mexican tutors are conducting conversations in Spanish for beginning and for advanced students of Spanish. Another tutor is taking a group of students to the market where they will learn how to 'bargain' in Spanish. Another group is on the way to the Alameda to study Mexican history and customs as they are seen in the statues of heroes and in the traditional *paseos*. One group, under the direction of an instructor from T.S.C.W. is studying basic principles of Spanish syntax in order to learn to speak correct Spanish. Another class is reading in Spanish a travel book about Mexico or some masterpiece of Mexican literature. In one classroom some twenty-five Mexican girls are perfecting their use of English with the aid of an instructor from T.S.C.W. In the afternoon a large group studies under trained Mexican specialists some of the many typical folk dances and songs of our southern neighbor. Later an interesting and instructive lecture (one of a series of twenty-five given in Spanish by Mexican Professors) deals with some phase of the political, economic, literary or artistic life of Mexico....

"The future value of such intimate contacts is difficult to estimate. Every one of the 120 girls from the United States who attended the Texas State College for Women Summer School in Saltillo in 1941 and 1942 carried away with her to her family, her community, her state, warm personal appreciation for Mexico as well as a better understanding of her neighbor. The presence of those modern and intelligent representative girls from the United States in Mexico has given the people of Saltillo and Coahuila an understanding of the better class of our womanhood and consequently of the ideals of our whole nation."

CASA PAN-AMERICANA OF MILLS COLLEGE

These paragraphs are from a report on the 1942 Casa Pan-Americana of Mills College (California) received from the director of the summer session, John H. Furbay:

"The faculty were resident in the Casa with the students, providing daytime and evening contacts, conferences, and personal help with language and curricular problems. The Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Latin-Americans, mingling constantly with the North Americans, gave the Casa a genuine Pan-American atmosphere. The hostess of the Casa, Señora Du Pont Garthwaite, a native of El Salvador,...added much to the home-like nature of the Casa. On special occasions, the resident Latin-Americans dressed in their native costumes and planned the music, drama, and dances.

"The carefully planned language instruction in Spanish and Portuguese met many needs: elementary and advanced students, business and literary students, those in great haste and those in leisure. The language teaching staff was headed by Dr. Dominic Rotunda, of Mills College, and counted among its members guest teachers from Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, and Mexico. Two hours were set aside daily as a minimum period for formal class instruction in Spanish and Portuguese. Instruction in English was available to Latin-Americans. Table conversation at all meals in the Casa was organized for language practice.

"The daily workshop, directed by Dr. Samuel Guy Inman, Professor of International Relations at the University of Pennsylvania, built its summer efforts around a project of preparing a complete high school text on Latin-America for social science teachers. The smaller seminar groups contributed specialized material to the larger workshop body, which in turn incorporated the material into the course-of-study. An important seminar on Latin-American Literature was conducted by Dr. Arturo Torres-Rioseco, a native of Chile; another seminar working on Curriculum Problems was headed by Miss Ruth Franklin, Director of Latin-American Studies in the San Francisco Public Schools.

"Mr. Antonio Sotomayor, well-known Bolivian artist,...served as adviser and instructor in Latin-American art. The course in the history of South American art given by Alice Putnam Breuer was based on rare slides and an exhibition of Pre-Columbian art.... An exhibition of contemporary Latin-American art...also attracted much interest.

"A color film depicting the life and program of the Casa Pan-Americana will be available for distribution by Mills College within the next few weeks. It may be obtained in silent or sound versions by schools and other interested groups."

SE HABLA INGLÉS AQUÍ

English classes begun April 1, 1942, by the Cultural Institute at Caracas, Venezuela, had an enrolment of 125 within a month.... English classes at the Benjamin Harrison Library in Mexico City are also largely attended. Eighteen classes over the air given by that library in cooperation with the National University of Mexico enrol several hundred students and bring in an average of four requests daily for study sheets. When the lesson was kept off the air one day by a congressional hookup, 29 telephone inquiries in 15 minutes demanded to know why.... The English Center in Quito, Ecuador, is supported largely by working people eager to learn English, and language classes are crowded. Officials have reported that 87 percent of Ecuadorian high-school students are taking English....

English classes organized by the Cultural Institute at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, quickly enrolled 100 students with four teachers.... The Cultural Institute at Florianopolis, Brazil, in three weeks had 194 students in English classes including people in all walks of life. Some 150 registrants have had to be refused admission for lack of teaching assistance.

In Bogotá, Colombia, REPASEMOS NUESTRO INGLÉS (a textbook of lessons in English to use with radio courses) is just off the press in response to popular demand - the first publication of the Colombian-American Center there and tangible proof of the popularity and usefulness of the English lessons that the Center broadcasts. Beginning September 22 a series of lessons were broadcast from Bogotá over Radio Nacional on time donated by the Colombian Ministry of Education - 14 lessons in all: two a week for seven weeks.

BUILDING UNDERSTANDING

A quiet United States citizen, formerly professor of history at the University of California, is now attache of the United States diplomatic staff in Santiago. His name is Lawrence Kinnaird. From a small office in the American Embassy he is building a constructive understanding of the United States of America. Mr. Kinnaird had said:

"We are planning to send experienced American teachers to Chile's secondary schools and universities. Experienced Chilean teachers will work in the States as part of this exchange system.

"The problem of cheap American textbooks is a stumbling block.... We are trying various methods of getting the price of our books down to where the students can afford them, but it is difficult without subsidies."

PERUVIAN STUDENT AT WORK

One person who is extremely busy interpreting his country, Peru, to the United States citizens and who at the same time is learning to take an understanding of the United States back to his countrymen is A. F. Lulli, now a student at the University of Kansas. During the school year 1941-42 Sr. Lulli was a scholarship student at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. There his record of achievements was so impressive that he has been awarded the Latin American Scholarship at the University of Kansas for the current school year by the Institute of International Education.

After a visit to Washington recently, Sr. Lulli wrote, "One of the things that was most firmly engraved in my mind upon my return to the Middlewest was the sincere effort of the several departments of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs in the promotion of understanding between the two continents. Many times previously I had read about what the organization was undertaking; but - as probably many South Americans still believe - I formerly believed that a future return was the generating force of these efforts - probably a return in dollars. At least, I thought, this shows that the North American millionaires have found a way to spend their surplus capital.... How erroneous these ideas proved to be upon visiting the Office! I found that what moves these men behind their desks at their daily work is not self-interest as many Latin Americans believe; it is a live desire to make a happy reality of Simón Bolívar's great dream of a Cooperative Federation of Nations with no Empire. If during his time his ideas seemed extravagant, now they are possible; if in his time the Americas were not prepared for so advanced an idea, now we are."

Sr. Lulli is working with the Pan American League, endeavoring to organize Student Leagues in the Middlewest. He was a luncheon speaker at the recent national convention of the college and university groups of the Pan American League in Miami, and served as the leader of one of the round-table discussions on postwar problems.

BBC SHORT-WAVE BROADCASTS

Available free to all teachers upon request is a mimeographed bulletin announcing outstanding short-wave broadcasts from Britain for one-week periods. These programs of the British Broadcasting Corporation which are heard in the United States between the hours of 5:15 P.M. and 12:45 A.M., EWT constitute a continuous short-wave transmission and are beamed over transmitters the frequencies of which are designed to make the programs clearly audible in the United States. The contents range all the way from news thru war commentary, dramatic and musical programs as well as talks on current affairs. Address inquiries to the British Broadcasting Corporation, International Building, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

NEWS FROM AMERICA SOUTH

FROM BRAZIL



Expressing a sincere interest in maintaining a constant correspondence between teachers and students of Brazil and the United States, a letter came to the National Education Association from the University of São Paulo. The letter especially urges that universities in the United States communicate with São Paulo with information about university organization, classes, programs, and extracurriculum activities. They in turn would respond in kind.

The NEA urges that a response be made to this manifestation of friendliness and AMONG US here publishes the name and address of the correspondent: Sr. Gastão Gorenstein, "Coluna Universitária," *Diário da Noite*, Caixa Postal 2936, São Paulo, Brasil.

The Brazilian novelist, Erico Verissimo, has published a volume on his impressions of life in the United States, under the title *Gato Preto em Campo de Neve* (Porto Alegre: Livreria do Globo: 1941). The book, in the form of conversation between the author and a friend, has already gained a wide public. The questions and answers deal largely with charges frequently brought against the United States and the North American public by those imperfectly acquainted with the country and consequently much given to drawing wrong conclusions from insufficient data.

Senhor Verissimo visited this country last year at the invitation of the Department of State. He is one of the outstanding writers in Rio Grande do Sul, where he lives in the coastal city of Porto Alegre.

The title of his book, *Gato Preto em Campo de Neve*, means "Black Cat in a Snowfield," but, the author advises, the reader should not try to conjure any secret or symbolical meaning into the

phrase. It merely refers to a black cat which crossed a snowfield in Colorado on wary feet as Senhor Verissimo watched from a train window.

The following typical excerpts, translated from the last chapter of the book, give an idea of the author's method and point of view:

DIALOGUE BETWEEN ERICO VERISSIMO AND A FRIEND

"And of what does that dream [the American dream] consist?"

"It consists of the ideas of equality, liberty and fraternity which are the basis of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution of the United States."

"But how can there be a national unity with such diversity of races?"

"Partly because of this community of ideas. Under the cornerstone of the American nation there is a copy of the Bible and a mixture made up of the dreams, of the sufferings, of the sweat, and of the blood of pioneers.

"Whatever may be the appearances presented by pictures of modern life, the United States is a country fundamentally religious....

"Directly or indirectly, in greater or lesser degree, that nation lives according to the precepts of the Bible...."

"What other elements contribute to this national unity?"

"The standardization of production, which creates a similar demand throughout the country. The books of history, poetry or fiction, which stimulate in the masses the cult of hero worship. Advertising, which induces millions of Americans to try and to like certain products. One of the most powerful factors in promoting national unification is the astonishing means of communication and transportation available, serving to shorten distances and bring the various states more closely together. And among these means of communication we should not overlook the newspaper, motion pictures, and the radio (unfortunately, two-edged instruments for construction or destruction)....

"With its admirable means of communications and movement the United States is transformed into one vast community; in spite of differences in climate... all [the people] have the same ideas in common, they believe in Democracy, and wish to preserve it, they love liberty and foster respect for one another...."

[Referring to "swing," to night clubs, and other North American frivolities]

"In this mixture of adolescence and maturity lies, in my opinion, the greatest charm of the North Americans. Yes, they may at times dance their 'swing' and clown, but they know how to build monuments, great cities and factories, and when they are forced to fight they reveal a will to win and a spirit of sacrifice such as are not possessed by all peoples...."

"Are the North Americans interesting?"

"The great mass of the population consists of normal people, industrious, gay, of a methodical gaiety which never interferes with their working hours."

"Then, they are not interesting people?"

"In a spectacular sense, that is, as literary subject or an expression of exoticism - no. The Americans are pleasant, perhaps the best companions in the world. Sincere, incapable of treachery or violence, they do not like to meddle in the life of others...."

"Then the United States must be a Paradise...."

"No, I do not say that. There are disagreements and misunderstandings between the employers and the workers. But since there exists freedom of thought and expression, these controversies do not assume a physical character. There are small sore spots scattered through the country. We read of them in plays, novels and films. The government is seeking to resolve all these social and economic problems in the most humane and efficient manner. If we strike a balance of the good and bad qualities of the United States, we shall find a considerable favorable account...."

"Then you were favorably impressed with the 'man in the street' in the United States?"

"Most favorably. He is considerate, of a natural kindness, without being theatrical. He is a lover of order and acts with an appealing good-will."

"A Russian, an Italian or a Spaniard might appear to our eyes a spectacular phenomenon, as a dramatic, and romantic example of humanity; but if I had to choose my neighbors among foreign peoples, I should unhesitatingly choose a North American. Here is a man who would not meddle in the life of others and who will not trespass on his neighbors' property...."

"You believe, then, that a war of conquest today would be very unpopular in the United States?"

"I do. The people would be disgusted. Because we must not forget that the Americans are quixotic. They build dams (répresas) but

they know how to write love songs. They are accustomed to standardization, but they have great respect for the lives of their fellow men, and they are quickly enthused by a noble crusade."

"Then, the idea that the North Americans are a cold, practical race, without sentimentalism (sentiment as romanticism) is erroneous...."

"Absolutely...."

"I do not deny that the United States has made great mistakes in the past and that it is now confronted with grave problems. I find in the North American scene people, ideas and customs that are especially distasteful to me. I reaffirm, nevertheless, my sympathy and my confidence in this admirable nation of well meaning and courageous people. And everything leads me to believe that if they know how to preserve through these stormy days the American dream and their ideals of humanity, equality and fraternity - now held up to ridicule by the proponents of brute force - we may expect much from this new world which will spring up after this war and for whose marking we, the men of the Americas, will be called."

"Do you think that Christian ideals will be of some use in that new world?"

"Without them the new society will be a cold landscape of machines and men without soul. I do not doubt that we can one day employ all our capacity for love, all our creative intelligence, all our conquests of progress, in the making of a just, noble and beautiful society."

"With what work would you like to close this dialogue?"

"With the same one that I have always used to close my books."

"And what is that word?"

"Hope."

As a part of a program of festivities in celebration of Columbus Day, Nicaragua's President Somoza inaugurated in Managua the new "Franklin Delano Roosevelt" school for children.

Senhorita Jose Fonseca Paiva has been awarded a scholarship thru the Instituto Brasil - Estados Unidos for a two-year course at the Pennsylvania College for Women at Pittsburgh.

FROM CHILE



The Chilean Government recently announced the creation of the Institute for Education of the Farm Laborer (Instituto de Informacion Campesina). The aim of the Institute is to provide simple educational material for the improvement of farm laborers and their families.

Quarterly publications are to be used to disseminate this information. The publications are written in the plainest language and are well illustrated. These publications are designed to teach the laborer and his family simple rules of health and sanitation, improve his knowledge of agriculture, encourage him to take better care of his livestock, and instruct him with regard to civic duties and rights. At the same time this material will inform him of outstanding events in the history of his country and give him an idea of its geography, entertain with amusing but constructive stories and relate the traditions of countryfolk so that these tales will not be forgotten.

The publications are available to all who work upon the land and are distributed to the four corners of the country. Distribution is made by the State Police known in Chile as the Carabineros.

On March 6 the University of Chile in Santiago commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Walt Whitman. The Chilean writer, Pepita Turina, delivered a lecture on Whitman's life and work. *El Mercurio*, in a column-and-a-half editorial entitled "Walt Whitman," asserts that he is another example of a great poet first recognized as such by foreign critics and translators: in Whitman's case, successively German, French, Italian, Nicaraguan (Darío), and Chilean (Armando Vasseur).

The editorial says: "The voice of the great old man who lived in the land of iron is already a sort of apocalyptic voice of eternal poetry that ages not nor weakens and that, on the contrary, is continually renewed beneath the influence of an eternal spring of the spirit."

FROM COSTA RICA



A Central American Educational Conference, attended by Secretaries of Public Education in Central America and Panama, was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, August 30 to September 5. The chief purpose of the conference was to discuss the fundamentals, methods, and objectives of education in Central America and the possibility of their unification in all six countries. Among the resolutions adopted was one for the coordination of primary school studies. A parade in which 756 Costa Rican schools were represented was one of the features of the conference.

Costa Rican schools will immediately be oriented according to these new unified plans, says Jose Fabio, Chief Technical Expert on Education. Delegates have expressed satisfaction with the work accomplished at the conference, auguring well for the advancement of democratic education in Central America.

FROM HAITI



M. Maurice Dartigue, Minister of Public Instruction in Haiti and specialist in rural education, as a travel grantee visited Indian schools in South Dakota and the agricultural dependencies of Cornell University, and is making practical use in Haitian schools of the results of his investigations.

Speaking at the Pan American Day celebration in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed the importance of cultural co-operation. From these cultural relations he said, springs the hope that some day American individualism will make its voice heard on all questions of world interest. He said further that this "new Pan Americanism" shows that the dependence of the small nations on the great is no longer subject to the "leonine methods" of the past, but that, in accordance with President Roosevelt's Good Neighbor policy, the right of the weak to the generous assistance of the stronger is recognized.

A Haitian daily printed an interesting item in an August issue. It stated that since the inauguration of the Good Neighbor policy there has been an unprecedented demand in Port-au-Prince bookstores for dictionaries in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Similar reports from all over the Americas prove how general and how pronounced is the interest of Americans North, South, and Central, in learning to talk to one another.

A decree-law in Haiti making the teaching of English compulsory in all schools from primary grades upward went into effect October 1, 1942.

FROM PERU



After completing its section of the Pan American Highway, Peru is now turning attention to the construction of a chain of twenty up-to-date hotels conveniently spaced along the Pan American Highway and auxiliary highways. These highways are rapidly spreading thruout the nation.

Recent reports from Peru indicate completion of the ninth of this chain of twenty hotels - the remaining eleven are either projected or under construction.

Eight of the new hotels are to be located along the Pan American Highway from Ecuador on the

north to Chile and Bolivia on the south and east. They will be located in Tumbes, Piura, Trujillo, Nazca, Chala, Camana, Arequipa, and Puno. Hotels at Piura, Chala, Camana, and Arequipa are already finished.

On the road thru the Central Valley from Lima to Bolivia new hotels are located at Huacayo and Abancay. The hotels at Ayacucho and Cuzco are under construction and one is planned for Juliaca. At the site of the ruins of the ancient fortress city of Manchu Picchu, 66 miles from Cuzco, former seat of the Incan Empire, a small rest house has been erected.

On the Central Highway of Peru which crosses the Andes from the Pacific Ocean to the Amazon Valley, hotels have been built at Huanuco and at Tingo Maria, site of an agricultural experiment station. A hotel is planned for Moyobamba in the Department of San Martin. Moyobamba is frequently referred to as the garden spot of Peru.

A hotel is planned for the picturesque city of Cajamarca, capital of the Department of the same name, and for Youngay and Huaraz in the scenic valley between the ranges of the White and Black Mountains in the Department of Ancachs. This beautiful valley may be reached by a short detour from the Pan American Highway.

The largest of these new hotels is now under construction in Cuzco. It will have accommodations for 150 guests while the smaller ones, with the exception of the rest house at Manchu Picchu, will provide shelter for 39 guests. All of these hotels are designed in simple Spanish colonial style, an architecture in keeping with the communities in which they are located. At Ayacucho a fine old colonial mansion has been taken over and is now being altered to serve as a hotel. To date, Peru has invested over \$1,200,000 in these new hotels, which are administered by the Hotel Company of Peru Incorporated.

Peru is looking forward to a flood of tourist business from the neighboring republics and from North America when the war is over. Tourists are expected to come by steamship, plane, and automobile to enjoy the splendid network of highways which now cover this republic including about 1000 miles of the completed Pan American Highway.

Peru claims to have anticipated the Pan American Highway by much more than four centuries, because when the Spanish Conquistador, Pizarro, reached Peru in 1526 he found a remarkable system of highways uniting all parts of the great Incan Empire and radiating from Cuzco, the magnificent capital. These roads extended from Quito, present capital of Ecuador, to Santiago, capital of Chile. The Incan roads were so well constructed that sections of them still survive to this day after more than 400 years of neglect. The route of the original north and south Incan highway is, generally, the route followed by the Pan American Highway today.

NEWS FOR THE BOOKSHELF

LABOR CONDITIONS IN LATIN AMERICA has appeared with a No. 12 issue in the Latin American Series. The articles therein were contained in the *Monthly Labor Review* during April, May, and June 1942. Address: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

EL ECO, Revista de la Prensa Española, is a four-page newspaper in Spanish for students of that language, published by the Odyssey Press, Inc., 386 Fourth Avenue, New York City. Sixteen issues a year. Single subscriptions \$1.50; reduction on quantity orders.

CONCISE CHARTED SPANISH GRAMMAR is a new text by Edwin Schoenrich. The book is organized carefully as both a grammatical text and a reference source. This treatment is in contrast to the more conversational style and approach of other recent texts. The publisher is N. E. H. Hubbard and Co., 150 Nassau Street, New York City. Price \$2.50.

EDUCATIONAL TRENDS IN LATIN AMERICA, No. 3, by Francisco S. Céspedes, can be obtained from the Division of Intellectual Cooperation, Pan American Union. The numbers 1 and 2 covered 1937 and 1938 respectively. The recent issue contains a summary of educational conditions in the other American republics at the present time and is limited to the most urgent problems in the field of elementary education and to the solutions that are being sought by Latin American educators. Address: Pan American Union, Washington, D. C. Price 25 cents, payable in stamps.

MINORITY PEOPLES IN A NATION AT WAR is the title of *The Annals* of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, September 1942. Address: 3457 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

LOOKING TOWARD THE POST-WAR WORLD is the title of the statement of the Friends Conference on Peace and Reconstruction held at Wilmington, Ohio, August 31-September 4, 1942. The statement is issued as a basis for further study and discussion and revision as a contribution to the task of building an informed public opinion on our responsibility as world citizens. Address: American Friends Service Committee, 20 Twelfth Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Price 10 cents; in lots of 15 or more, 6 cents a copy.

THE VOYAGE OF THE MARTIN CONNOR by Oswald Kendall (published by Houghton Mifflin Co., 1941, 312 p., \$2). A story of adventure involving a voyage up the Amazon River, a treasure hunt, and contacts with wild animals and strange men. Would have appeal to boys at the secondary-school level.

A weekly radio guide to U. S. programs with Latin American content is prepared by the Radio Division of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. The network is indicated as well as the broadcasting station in New York and Washington, D. C. Address: Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Radio Division, Commerce Building, Washington, D. C.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE HISTORY by Robert J. Parker is a 214-page guide for an undergraduate college course in the history of this hemisphere to the summer of 1942. It is now in mimeographed form, published by the California Book Co., Ltd., Berkeley, Calif.

THE ECONOMIC DEFENSE OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE: A STUDY IN CONFLICTS is a symposium which has been published by the Latin American Economic Institute of Boston. The authors are eight in number. Address: William P. Everts, 24 Federal Street, Boston, Mass.

A 1943 catalog is now available from the Latin American Village, 121 Monterrey Avenue, P. O. Box 231, El Monte, Calif.

THE VILLAGE THAT LEARNED TO READ by Elizabeth Kent Tarshis (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1941, 159 p., \$2). A story of the children in a small Mexican village. It relates how Carlotta and Pablo changed the mind of Pedro who did not want to learn to read. Illustrated with many line drawings. Would be of special interest to children in the early elementary grades.

THE STORY OF THE OTHER AMERICA by Richard C. Gill and Helen Hoke (published by Houghton Mifflin Co., 1941, 56 p., \$2). A brief and quickly moving account of South America from the time of discovery up to the present. Profusely illustrated with many line sketches. Perhaps most useful in Grades III thru VI.

MUSIC OF THE NEW WORLD is the title of handbook Vol. 1, 1942-43, of the broadcast series of the Inter-American University of the Air every Thursday 11:30 P.M. to midnight EWT. The NBC handbook gives the background for programs which begin with pre-Columbian music and carry on to the middle of the nineteenth century. (Other programs will follow bringing the story up to the present.) The series has been planned by Carleton Sprague Smith, Chief of the Music Division of the New York Public Library. Address: NBC Inter-American University of the Air, National Broadcasting Co., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. Price 25 cents; discount on quantities.

50 FACTS ABOUT INDIA is a small, illustrated booklet published by the British Information Services, an agency of the British Government. **50 FACTS ABOUT BRITAIN AT WAR** is a like pamphlet. Address: British Information Services, RCA Building, New York City. Free.

EASTERN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES is No. 7 of the pamphlet series entitled *America Looks Ahead*, published by the World Peace Foundation. The author is Josef Hanc. Address: World Peace Foundation, 40 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, Mass. Price 25 cents paper edition; cloth, 50 cents.

RECENT STUDIES OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE is a recent mimeographed bibliography prepared by Florence Hall, Associate Education Specialist, Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. Its several sections serve as guides to bibliographical aids, to articles written concerning foreign language teaching, to articles written about Hispanic-American literature and culture in United States periodicals, as well as inter-American relations. Address: Education Division, Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Commerce Building, Washington, D. C. Free.

The Committee on Asiatic Studies in American Education of the American Council on Education prepares bulletins designed to guide teachers in the planning of Asiatic studies in their courses. **BULLETIN III**, September 28, 1942, contains suggestions for "Asia in the United States History Course," and a suggestion for the biographical study of several Asians who, by consensus of specialized opinion, should be familiar to every school child. There are news notes at the end of the bulletin. To obtain this publication write the American Council on Education, Committee on Asiatic Studies in American Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

BULLETINS FROM BRITAIN is a publication of the British Information Services in the United States. Issues are published weekly containing material selected by the Service. Address: British Information Services, RCA Building, New York City.

THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE WAY, by Henri Bonnet, is a discussion of the world situation in terms of the principles and policies of the United Nations. It is published by the World Citizens Association, 84 East Randolph Street, Chicago, Ill. Price 50 cents.

WORLD ORGANIZATION AFTER THE WAR has been issued by Editorial Research Reports. It discusses the Atlantic Charter, postwar economic relations, and the possibility of a United Nations organization on a permanent basis. Address: Editorial Research Reports, 1013 Thirteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

DIRECTORY OF LEARNED SOCIETIES, RESEARCH INSTITUTES, AND OTHER CULTURAL BODIES is a publication listing such groups in all the American republics. Address: Division of Intellectual Cooperation, Pan American Union, Washington, D. C.

CHINA'S GIFTS TO THE WEST is the title of a pamphlet for school use which has been prepared by Derk Bodde and will shortly be published by the Committee of Asiatic Studies in American Education, American Council on Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C. Price 35 cents.

AMERICA IN A WORLD AT WAR is a textbook designed to meet the needs of a high-school course in American problems. It is published by Silver Burdett and Co., 45 East 17th Street, New York City. Price \$1.80.

GOALS FOR AMERICA by Stuart Chase is a new book discussing the issues of a postwar America. The publisher is the Twentieth Century Fund, 330 West 42d Street, New York City. Price \$1.

OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS is a new Unified Social Studies Text on Latin America. It is profusely illustrated with photographs and maps. Unusual emphasis is placed upon environmental factors such as climate, fertility of soil, harbors and rivers, and natural resources as affecting the history of nations. The authors are J. G. Meyer, William H. Gray, and Ralph Hancock. The publication is designed for Grades VI to IX. Address: Follett Publishing Co., 1257 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill. Price \$1.60.

INTER-AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING: A WAR AND PEACE PROGRAM FOR KANSAS SCHOOLS is a 36-page bulletin that was issued in October 1942 by the Kansas Commission on Education and the Civilian War Effort. The content of this bulletin is designed to help teachers to locate sources of information on inter-American relations. It also suggests some of the activities and topics that might be considered in school courses dealing with Latin America. Address the Commission at Topeka, Kans.

NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR: MEXICO; and THREE ISLAND NATIONS: CUBA, HAITI, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC are two new publications issued by Row, Peterson and Co. Several other booklets will be issued soon in The Good Neighbor Series. These publications are an attempt to meet the demand for authentic and interesting material on the Latin American republics. The booklets have heavy paper covers, are generously illustrated with black and white and colored pictures. The content blends history, geography, and cultural materials. It appears that these bulletins would be most useful at the junior high-school level. Offices of the publisher are in Evanston, Ill., San Francisco, and New York. The list price of each publication is 56 cents.

SPECIAL BOOK REVIEWS

In response to a request by the editors of *AMONG US*, publishers have submitted copies of their books about Latin America for review. These reviews by Mildred Small Allen are an attempt to state an unbiased opinion of the value of the books to teachers.

ARGENTINA, THE LIFE OF A NATION is a new book by John W. White, a *New York Times* correspondent who has a background of twenty-five years' residence in Latin America. It appeals to me as a lively, penetrating, exciting discussion, studied tho not brilliant. It is a history, but more than a chronicle, for altho Mr. White follows events somewhat chronologically he sometimes leaps excitedly to the present to interpret the character of the nation or to point up the development of a prejudice, a point of view, or policy. Such a style gives the book its personality and makes it extremely readable.

The Argentine people as a nation are difficult for the United States citizen to understand. I have the feeling that Mr. White himself does not really understand them altho he knows them well and knows what to expect from them. The difficulty lies, I suppose, at least in part, in the differences between the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon. Then, too, altho John Citizen of the United States has recently become more interested in understanding Juan Pueblo of Argentina, Juan is very skeptical of this interest and does not wear his heart on his sleeve. He is proud and clings to his prejudices.

John White reveals those things of which the Argentines are proud. He explains their prejudices. His work becomes particularly exciting after he completes the history of the colonial period as he builds up the story of a nation coming into its own ethnically, politically, economically, and psychologically.

One of the thrills of the book is the remarkable portrait of Hipólito Irigoyen, who devoted his tragic life to a fight for universal suffrage and the secret ballot in Argentina, became the first President "of the people," best loved of leaders, and finally the most hated because of his inability to cope with the problems of his office. His name and his influence are hardly known in the United States, yet he was President of Argentina as recently as 1930 when he was forced out by a popular revolution.

Other leaders in Argentine national life are ably presented but none other as sympathetically, with the exception perhaps of Alfredo Palacios, a contemporary liberal leader.

This is a book well worth a teacher's time. One is amply rewarded with a storage of colorful

information which is exceedingly helpful in interpreting the actions of the Argentines in all our dealings with them.

Viking Press is the publisher. The price of the book is \$3.75.

The next best thing to reading the works of Latin American literary figures is to read about them. With too few exceptions the latter is the most that we monolingualists in the United States can take the time to do to know the guideposts as well as the reflections of Latin American thought.

A recent book published by the Oxford University Press, entitled *THE EPIC OF LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE*, by Arturo Torres-Rioseco, offers a stimulating general study of names and works of literary figures of South America, Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean islands from colonial times to the present. The writers and their ideas are nicely grouped and simply pictured against the background of movements and influences in Latin American development.

Latin American literature is just now entering upon its Golden Age. To see the beginnings, the influences from which the present literature springs, is the one way to appreciate the emerging original idiom. America is learning to speak for itself divested of the shackles of formal artistic influences. But of course even with the shackles gone the heredity remains.

The author is a critic intensely enthusiastic and sensitive. His pace in this book is swift; his treatment necessarily brief, but he accomplishes his "Epic" with a clarity of perception. His brevity and his organization make it possible for one unacquainted with Latin American literature to assimilate and remember the most notable literary works and artists.

The book can be a reference for those interested in reading Latin American literature and as such it offers an interesting framework for study. One chapter is devoted to modern Brazilian writers. The interesting criticism of this section ignites a hope that publishers in the United States will make increasingly available the works of our contemporaries in Latin America.

In preparation and to be published by the Latin American Economic Institute, 24 Federal Street, Boston, Mass., are two books on Argentina: *THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF ARGENTINA*, by Miron Burgin, and *THE ATTEMPT AT A NEW DEAL IN ARGENTINA*, by Felix Weil.